

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

RECEIVED
#0000 2910 51298
005 DTM
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC 5925 P1
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE
MAY 19 2011 37203-3620

E 1877
2011
L 135
NO. 19



Disaster Relief headed to flood area

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force is wrapping up major operations in east Mississippi and redeploying westward to prepare for the predicted massive flooding along the Mississippi River, according to Jim Didlake, director of men's ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson and coordinator of the Task Force.

Didlake said the Task Force's large feeding unit — a fully self-contained eighteen wheeler capable of supplying thousands of hot meals per day — will be staffed by volunteers working from the parking lot of Emmanuel Church in Grenada to supply meals to Mississippi Delta shelters. Another feeding unit is on the way to Easthaven Church in Brookhaven and will provide meals for shelters opening in central and southwest Mississippi, he said.

More information on the latest deployments will be available in the May 19 issue of The Baptist Record.

Vols in action after tornado outbreak

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

In the aftermath of the tornadoes that swept through Mississippi and many other southern states on April 15 and 16, stories of tragedy abound. One bright spot, however, is how Mississippi Baptists, working sometimes together, sometimes independently, were able to join other first responders in meeting needs across the state.

"When disaster comes to a community, we anticipate that the local churches are going to respond just like they would to any other needs in the community," said Don Gann, consultant in the Men's Ministry department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "So when the churches are strong in a community and are able to perform ministry, our role here is just to support that, not to come in and take over. If they need something — access to something that they aren't able to get but that we may be able to — we can provide that. But the churches are there to start with. They were there before the storm, and they'll be there after the storm."

As an example, Gann noted that Mark Sandifer, missions pastor at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, was one of the first people he saw after the storm hit. "Mark was up on a roof covering the damaged roof with a tarp. We left a roll of tarp for him. He also gave us permission to set up at the old campus of Morrison Heights."

Gann also stated that Jon Daniels, pastor at Country Woods Church in Byram, is a volunteer fireman. Daniels performed search and rescue operations for the first three hours after the storm hit Clinton, and was able to rescue trapped people and give assessment to teams coming into the hour.

One story of note was the work that took place in Leakesville. Philip Price, associational missions director in Jackson Association, was able to step into the Leakesville area in the absence of Jimmy Holcomb, associational missions director for George/Greene association, who was in Peru on a mission trip. "I was pastor of First Church, Leakesville, up until September of 2009," said Price, "and have been here in Jackson County since then. I love Leakesville and have a lot of good relationships there."

"The Friday evening it happened, I didn't know what had happened until about 10 o'clock that night," Price continued. "I got a message to Jim Didlake about it, and he called about five the next morning, wanting to know if I could find out any information about the damage. So I got in the car and got up there a little before seven. I knew Jimmy was



AFTER THE STORM — Workers clean debris from the roof of a home in the East Side community near Leakesville. Mississippi Baptist volunteers were quick to respond in the aftermath of the storms that struck the area the evening of April 15. (Photo courtesy of Mississippi Emergency Management Agency)

returning from Peru Saturday, so I went to the emergency management office there. They asked me to help coordinate the volunteers and church groups coming in, so I got drafted to do that. I was glad to help. They were wondering how they were going to feed all the deputies and the highway patrol. So I called David Williams (pastor of Temple Church, Moss Point), and David got ahold of Doug Crane, a coach at East Central High School there to help."

"Philip called me a little before eight," said Williams, "and nobody knew what had happened at Leakesville. I didn't realize the damage was there. Philip said, 'we don't have anyone that can feed,' so we put together what cooking equipment I had personally, and Doug and I went up and cooked hamburgers and French fries to get them started. The Red Cross got there and was able to deliver with their trucks. We picked up some supplies at Walmart and were able to fix spaghetti that night. We ended up doing over 300 meals, just the two of us. Later that afternoon Doug's wife, Patty, came in, along with Tish Bishop. Kay [Cassibry] came about one that afternoon, and Jim [Didlake] followed later. They were able to get some more coordination to what we were doing. There was no electricity, just water, at First Leakesville."

"Sue and Malcolm Eubanks, who are very active at First Leakesville, came in and were a tremendous help," said Price.

"They helped us get some side items together. We were able to feed several firemen, some people from the hospital." While most of the food went out with the Red Cross, enough was kept on site to feed other emergency workers. Later, food was sent to the local community center.

"We did have a chainsaw crew that came up from Jackson County," said Williams.

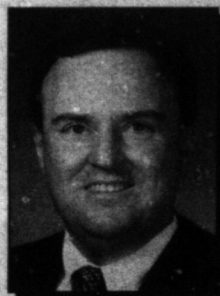
"For the next couple of days, I helped with the group feeding from Rocky Creek Church in Lucedale," said Price. "They finished their work by Tuesday at lunch."

Close to one hundred homes in the area were damaged, with eighteen totally destroyed, according to Price. "Most of those folks didn't have insurance — Leakesville is not a wealthy place."

"One thing that Coach Crane said that motivated us to be involved and to respond was remembering the quick response we got after Katrina," said Price. "We saw people come down and take initiative, and so we wanted to do the same thing."

"I wasn't surprised, but I was very pleased at how folks responded," said Gann. "Our people — even those who were right in the middle of it — were there just as early as they could get in. I know they are only representative of plenty of others who got involved. For instance, Morrison Heights was supposed to be the shelter for the area, but since they weren't able to, Parkway Church in Clinton stepped in."

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Archie Herrin, Columbia
Chris Webb, Jackson
Sharon Neff, Cleveland
John Price, Charleston
Dwayne Parker, Flora
Paul Sims, Pontotoc

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 135 • NUMBER 19
(ISSN-0005-5778)
Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 513 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

It's not over yet

For Mississippi residents, this has certainly been a Spring to remember. Severe weather has swept the state from Leakesville in the south to Clinton in central Mississippi to Smithville in the northeast. Fatalities and injuries have been high. Financial losses are almost incalculable. Weather experts blame La Nina, a weather phenomenon that periodically occurs in the equatorial region of the Pacific Ocean and lowers water temperatures enough to disrupt weather patterns deep into North America.

Now residents of the western border of our state are bracing for flooding along the Mississippi River, which drains about 40% of the country and is predicted to challenge all-time records in many locations along its path. As the bloated crest moves inexorably toward our state, we have witnessed the massive displacements and frightening financial consequences on other areas upriver.

Make no mistake — this flood will cost Mississippi alone hundreds of millions of dollars. How we will recover from this historic human and economic catastrophe is unclear. It's difficult to focus on that while so many of our fellow citizens are out of their homes and have lost virtually all their earthly possessions.

They need our help, and Mississippi Baptists are on the way. The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force has been activated for weeks. They have prepared tens of thousands of meals, chainsawed their way through hundreds of tons of downed trees, and assisted storm victims in many other ways.

Frankly, without Mississippi Baptist volunteers, there wouldn't be much of a disaster response.

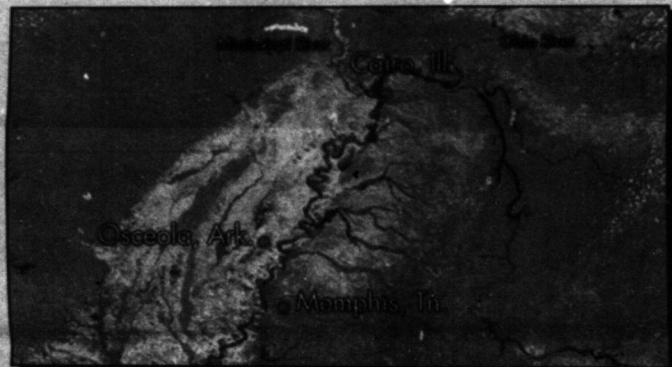
Now, with very little rest or time to restock, they are wrapping up their major operations in the storm-ravaged eastern portions of the state and deploying to the west to respond to the Mississippi River flooding that is upon us now. The Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering normally provide the financial support necessary for the operation of such a large and far-flung disaster relief organization, but this Spring has strained that budget.

Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has issued a Call to Prayer on Sunday, May 15, for the many victims of the multiple natural disasters that have happened — and are about to happen. He has also asked Mississippi Baptist churches to support a special offering that Sunday for the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force. Both are much needed.

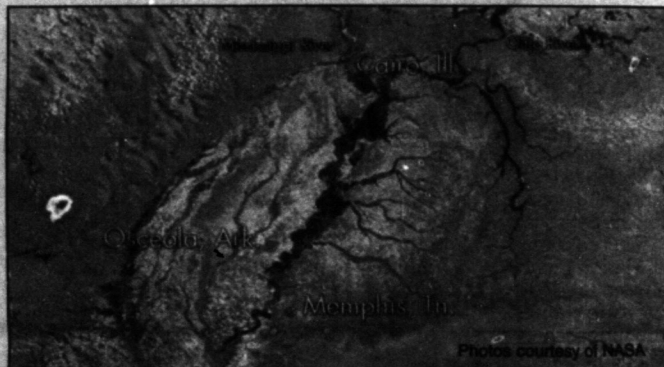
In addition to the special offering, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is also accepting financial donations any time to assist disaster victims in Mississippi. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Miss. Disaster Relief" noted on the memo line. The address to mail donations is: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

"In-kind" donations, such as food, clothing, or equipment, are not being accepted at this time.

For more information regarding the ongoing relief effort, contact Carol Wright in the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at the above address. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1551, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.



Mississippi River - May 5, 2010.



Mississippi River - May 5, 2011.

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the King James translation of the Bible. In order to get a better understanding of the significance of this event, we must look back to the origins of the first translations.

Until around 400 A.D., only those fluent in Hebrew or Greek could read Scripture. In those days scribes spent weeks and months preparing copies of the Bible by hand, which made it extremely rare for the common man to possess. In 405 A.D., the original Hebrew and Greek copies were converted to the Latin language and stood as the official version for almost a thousand years. With the fall of the Roman Empire, the Latin language began to decline throughout Europe.

The English-speaking world owes a great deal of gratitude to John Wycliffe (1330-1384), a theologian and Oxford professor who translated the entire Bible into English in 1382.

His translation was from an earlier Latin edition — the Latin Vulgate. It was his belief that every person had a right to read and interpret the Scriptures.

GUEST OPINION:



400 years — and counting

By Charles Hendrix Brandon

William Tyndale (1494-1536) came forward nearly 150 years after John Wycliffe with a first English translation from the original Hebrew and Greek languages.

The project began when in a meeting of church leaders it was mentioned that the masses were too illiterate to understand the Scriptures. Tyndale disagreed and suggested that people should have a Bible in their homes to read for themselves. One of the men argued with Tyndale that the Bible should be kept only in the church and read by clergy. Tyndale had enough and vowed, "If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth a plow to know of the scriptures than thou doest."

Tyndale was allowed to keep his vow, but his idea was so unpopular that in 1524 he had to leave England for Germany to work on his translation. The only way he could get his Bibles onto English shores was to smuggle them in with other goods. The Bishop of London was strongly opposed, and confiscated and burned as many as he could find.

In 1536, Tyndale was arrested, strangled to death, and burned. His last words were the prayer, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes." Tyndale's dying prayer was answered when in 1603 James I (1566-1625) became King of England. A delegation of Puritan ministers approached the new king with their grievances against the Church of England. The king obliged them by convening a conference of church-

men in 1604 to consider the needs of the church.

When it was suggested that the Bible be retranslated, King James liked the idea because he thought a Bible in the common language, translated on English soil, would unite the Puritans, Pilgrims, and all factions of his realm.

The translating began with a team of 54 scholars and took three years to complete. Another three years was spent in review and corrections, then almost another year was spent to prepare the new translation for printing. In 1611, the work was finally published and a copy was presented to King James at a special ceremony. The King James version became the official authorized rendition of the English-speaking world, and it was brought to our shores by the Pilgrims.

Today there are more than 2,000 translations in different languages and dialects. Year after year, booksellers record the Bible as a consistent best seller. The next time you pick up a Bible, reflect upon the men who labored so tediously 400 years ago.

Hendrix is a member of First Church, Fannin.

Prof: KJV still has much to offer readers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The King James Version of the Bible, first published 400 years ago on May 5, 1611, is the Bible God used to give believers many of the riches of the Puritan movement and it was the Bible at the heart of the Great Awakenings of the 18th century and the modern missionary movement, an expert noted.

"Until the 1950s, the King James Bible was the Bible. It's the version that English-speaking Christians used," Michael Haykin, professor of church history and biblical spirituality at Southern Seminary, told Baptist Press.

"People like John Wesley and George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards would all have used this version in their preaching. When the modern missionary movement begins with people like William Carey and Hudson Taylor and David Livingstone, this again is the Bible that's used through the 19th century," Haykin said. "It's the Bible Charles Spurgeon would have preached from, and so on."

A key thrust of the Reformation was to get the Bible to the people, which required translating it into the vernacular — the speech that people were using — instead of leaving the Bible in Latin, Haykin said.

"There's a massive amount of translation activity going on between the 1520s and 1611, and the King James Bible is the crowning achievement of this long period of 80 years of translation into English," he said. "The goal of that translation is to give the common reader an understanding of the Word of God."

"Now, in places, obviously, they try to be true to the text, and if the text is difficult to understand, then there are going to be challenges in understanding sometimes the theology of the Bible, but the goal is always to give the Scriptures to the people."

Haykin said that as the translators worked, they were aware that a saving knowledge of God, which is given through the Bible, was something that promoted the spiritual health of individuals but also would have a deep impact upon society.

"I would seriously doubt that any of the people involved in the Bible translation of the 16th century felt that significant numbers of people who are English-speaking, (that) knowing the Scriptures would have a harmful effect upon their culture," he said. "One of the ways in which they could build a solid culture and society was through a knowledge of the Scriptures. That's one of the manifest aims."

In the preface to the translation of the Scriptures, the man who wrote the preface, which is not always printed with the King James Version, a man named Miles Smith, who was actually a Puritan, he mentions

that it was zeal for the common good that drove them.

The King James Version is the most important piece of literature in the West in the past 500 years, profoundly shaping language and thought, Haykin said. The English language is peppered with phrases that come from the KJV, and from the 1650s onward, poets such as Alfred Lord Tennyson, William Blake, and T.S. Eliot, along with secular authors including Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters, and Charles Dickens, were influenced by that particular translation.

"The King James Version is the Bible that they would have heard if they ever went to church, and because these are people who make their living by using words and arranging words for poetry and novels, those patterns of speech in the King James Version are unconsciously picked up in their writings," Haykin said, "so when you're reading through their writings, you hear echoes, the way they construct language, because the King James Version attempts to follow the syntax of the Greek and Hebrew. So in many ways it actually shapes the English language, how we speak English."

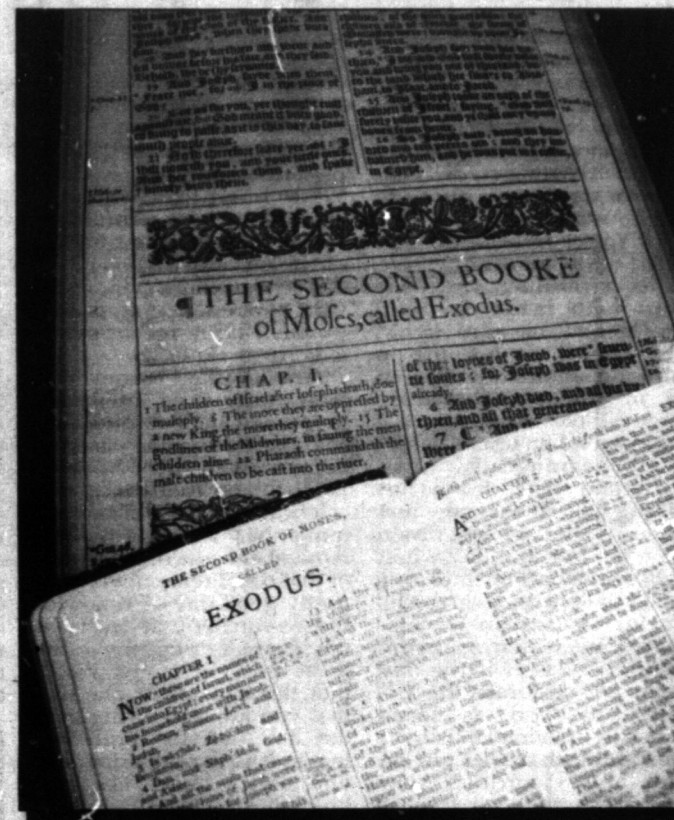
Without knowledge of the King James Version, it's difficult to understand the type of language that was used in English literature from the late 17th century through the mid-20th century, Haykin said.

"Even authors like F. Scott Fitzgerald who are manifestly opposed to the theology of the King James Version — the Bible and Christianity and biblical religion — are shaped by it because there is so much public speech," he said, adding that some believe Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and Winston Churchill's notable World War II speeches would not have existed on one level apart from the King James Version.

In the 20th century, what is known as the King James Only controversy arose when some believers maintained that the King James Version was the inspired version of the Bible and no other version should be used. All other versions, as one author said, were considered perverse.

"The debate obviously turns on two things. One is the issue of the actual translation. The other issue has to do with the underlying text," Haykin said. "There are problems on both levels. The King James Version that a person picks up today and buys today is not the exact version that was published in 1611. There have been modifications and changes to it."

In the 1760s, which is probably the heaviest era of modifications and changes, there are somewhere around 24,000 changes that are made to the



actual King James Version that was published in 1611," he said.

Those changes consisted of the addition of commas, italicization, and changes of singulars to plurals, but the text was essentially the same. "So which version are we talking about when we're talking about the King James Version? Are we talking about the 1611? Nobody uses that today," Haykin said, "or are we talking about the version that was established in the 1760s by two men [Francis Sawyer] Parris and [Benjamin] Blayney? In fact, Benjamin Blayney probably is the man who establishes the text for the King James Version for today, so there's that."

"Normally the King James Version supporters argue from the basis of the underlying Greek and Hebrew. The problem with that argument is that today we have about 5,300 copies or portions of

copies of the Greek New Testament, for example, and 800 copies of the Hebrew Old Testament, or portions.

The King James Version translators probably had about 25 copies of the Greek New Testament along with a printed edition that they were using, which had about six or seven," he said. "They had access realistically to about 30 copies or portions of copies of the Greek New Testament. We have 5,300. The textual basis of any recent English translation, he said, "is a much better textual basis than the King James Version."

The ESV, Haykin said, is probably the key Bible today that is in the King James Version tradition. Another is the New American Standard Version, which was published first in the 1970s as a revision of the American Standard Version published in 1901.

Looking back

10 years ago

Despite ongoing controversy over its refusal to accept acknowledged homosexuals as leaders, a national spokesman said the Boy Scouts of America recorded an increase in participation the previous year, with 4,941,000 boys involved.

20 years ago

Unusually heavy spring flood waters in the Delta area and in areas of north Mississippi lead to the activation of the Disaster Relief Unit of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The unit's volunteers dish up 1,616 meals on the first day of service.

50 years ago

W.C. Morgan, state music secretary, is a patient in Memorial Hospital, Gulfport, as a result of a heart attack which occurred at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 12, 2011

VOL. 135

No. 19



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

KH WKDW VDFULLFH-
WK XQWR DQB JRG,
VDYH XQWR WKH
ORUG RQOB, KH
VKDOO EH XWWHUOB
GHVWURBHG.
HARXV WZHQB-
WZR:WZHQB

Clue: X = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Fifty-two: Ten

TODAY

At times, do you just stop and think about how important one day is? For instance, as I began my day when I wrote this article, it was rainy and chilly for a Spring day. The traffic was snarled and backed up because of all of the slipping and sliding on the wet roads. I wondered what kind of day it was going to be. It was as though the Lord spoke right out of His Word and into my heart, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24). It got me to thinking about one day in all of history. There are some single days that we just remember immediately and meaningfully, like Christmas Day. I am not talking about the one just passed or the one just down the road, but that day when God sent His Son into our world to love us, to give His life for us, and to be mistreated by us on so many occasions. Easter is the day when we celebrate the triumph of God as Jesus comes to life victorious over everything that was put on Him and victorious over everything that we face or fear. One day is important.

I recall also those days like December 7, 1941, or September 11, 2001. There is one day that fascinates me because of the study and work done by some social historians as they pulled together information through the ages in an effort to find the day in history when nothing happened or at least the day in their estimation that the least hap-



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

pened in all of history. While I find their work fascinating, I also wonder if some people do not have enough to do. They say the day they found when the least happened or according to them nothing happened was April 11, 1954.

One of the reasons that their study is so interesting to me and their findings are so fascinating to me is because I remember April 11, 1954, for on that day I was celebrating a birthday. I remember where I was. I remember some of the events of that day. I remember it as a pretty good day — if not for the researchers, at least for me. That all brings me to the great truth of God's Word, that this capsule of one day that you are now living in is the day that the Lord has made. It is the only day that you and I have. The day known as yesterday is a memory. The day known as tomorrow is somewhat of a mirage, but today — this day is a good thing. The question is, what are you going to do with it? Here are just a few thoughts about today that can help make it a good day.



First of all, it is a precious day. It is a gift from God. For years, I began my mornings with the radio on listening to Farmer Jim Neal. He was the great sweet voice of central Mississippi for decades. So many mornings he would begin by saying, "Oh, it is a beautiful sunrise," and then he would encourage us to get out there and enjoy freshly made sunshine that just left the sun a few minutes ago. Regardless of what else is packed into this day, keep in mind that it is a gift from God and the opportunities, the challenges, the blessings, the achievements, and even the failures can be used of Him to bless your life.

Secondly, today is problematic. You may be hoping to have a perfect day, but more than likely this day is going to have some problems. That is the way it has been ever since Adam and Eve went to the garden market and chose the wrong fruit. We too are affected by wrong choices and also by the wrong choices of others. We live in

a sinful world and our sins have far reaching impact. Whether you recognize it or not, your sins affect my life and my sins affect your life. We all struggle with the problems that are created but since this is the only day that you have and the only one that I have, even with its problems we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The third thing that I would share with you about today is that it is programmable. You can make some decisions about today. In spite of your failures, in spite of your fears, and in spite of the uncertainties about the future, you can determine that today you are going to focus your heart, your life, and your faith on Jesus and look to Him and follow Him. By no means are you a robot but by every means you can continually focus and refocus on following Jesus and doing what He would do, doing what He would have you to do, and asking Him to empower you. Jesus promised, "I will never leave you or forsake you." Why not, at least for this day, promise Him that with His help and His grace you will not take your eyes off of Him. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

Central Baptist Church of Bearden, Knoxville, Tennessee, is seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Worship following the retirement of Dr. Wendell Boertje, who served faithfully in this position for 27 years. Qualified candidates should have a minimum of five years experience as a minister of worship and music, a music degree from an accredited college or university, seminary degree preferred, along with other qualifications. Information including our Church Profile and the Job Description may be viewed at <http://www.cbcbearden.org> under "Resources" then "Employment". Interested individuals may forward a resume to: Search Committee For Minister Of Music And Worship, PO Box 51343 • Knoxville, TN • 37950-1348. Or contact by e-mail to: musicsearch@cbcbearden.org.

CD or IRA Maturing?

Learn about a safe investment that beats low bank rates & avoid probate

Ask us about 7% Guaranteed Income Growth Rider

O'Mire Financial
1-800-844-3254
406 B Orchard Park Dr.
Ridgeland, MS 39157

CLASSIFIED ADS

DO YOU NEED A CHURCH PIANIST? We have piano CDs for churches to sing by! Hymns, Patriotic, Choruses, Praise - Call Worship Service Resources 1-877-977-6800. **FREE DEMO!** Special Church Pricing! www.wsplanocds.com.
GULF SHORES VACATION HOME: Spring Special \$499/wk. Summer Special \$899/wk. Including cleaning fees. Sleeps 12. Call 985-515-5133 or visit www.gsfamilyretreat.com.
CASEVILLE MANOR-NEWLY OPENED PRIVATE CARE HOME. Nurse owned and operated. Nurse or cna on duty 24 hours a day. Private bedroom and bath. We accept ambulatory, non-ambulatory, hospice and respite patients. Private Pay only. 601-823-0922 Wesson, Ms.

GATLINBURG CABIN FOR RENT: 2 bd/2ba, full kitchen, great view of National Pk. \$95/night. 832-922-0401 / pdw4760@att.net

USED CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE: Call 601-482-0191 for more information.
MS QUARTET CONVENTION June 9-11, 2011 @ Forrest Co. Multipurpose Center in Hattiesburg. Thurs. 6:30pm. **DOVE BROTHERS**, Chronicle, Homecoming, FRI 6pm: MSQC Awards, Talley Trio, Red Roots, Others. Sat. 1pm-10pm: Mark Trammell QT, Mike Bowling Family, Ricky Atkinson, Red Roots, Riders, Others (AM Talent Contest) www.msqa.com or 601-466-4343 Ticket & RV information.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to 601-483-7958 or call 800-368-2705.

FOR SALE: SIX-TIER LIGHTED PATRIOTIC SINGING FLAG (ELIZABETHTOWN, KY). Used for choir cantatas. Manufacturer's construction/lighting instructions included. Photos available. POC: John Rice, john@sevensvalley.org or 270-765-7822.
STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS AND REPAIRS. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.
CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.
STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970
SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass doors. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, AL. Rent Direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. Spring Special 4 Nights Eff Unit (2 adults & kids) \$444. Includes Everything, 1,2 & 3 Bedroom units also available. Even lower prices for those in the Ministry. 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231. www.gulfshorescondos.com

EVERYONE NEEDS TO GET AWAY BETSY'S LIL' CABINS at Lake Lincoln State Park. Rents nightly or \$250.00 a week. For details Call 601-940-6841 or 601-643-8817

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

Mississippi Baptist State Church Softball Tournaments

Tournament	SS Enrollment	Dates	Cost	Final Deadline
Adult Co-ed	All Churches	May 13-14	\$200	May 1
Men Class A	1-300	July 29-30	\$200	July 1
Men Class AA	301-700	July 29-30	\$200	July 1
Men Class AAA	701 and up	July 15-16	\$200	July 1

All Tournaments will be held in Pearl, MS at the Center City Complex. For more information or to download a registration form go to www.msbaaptistcreation.com or call 601.898.4969.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 12, 2011

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Online Training

for WMU Missions
& Women's Ministry Leaders

Mississippi WMU is now offering online training for missions leaders.

The following seven conferences are now available:

- How to Involve Churches in Associational Missions
- How to Involve Your Church in Missions
- How to Involve Adults in Missions
- How to Involve Women in Women's Ministry
- How to Involve Students in Missions
- How to Involve Children in Missions
- How to Involve Preschoolers in Missions

These online conferences are designed to train missions leaders in the local association and church to facilitate missions education and ministries as needed in their ministry environment.

To participate you must register online at: www.mbcb.org/mission_strategy/wmu/education/online_training.aspx. Online registration is now open.

For more information about online training please contact
Tammy Anderson
in the Mississippi WMU office
at 800-748-1651, ext. 323, or
tanderson@mbcb.org.

Mid-Delta FamilyFEST

July 20-24, 2011

(Cleveland, Greenwood, Indianola area)

FamilyFEST is a hands-on missions project designed to help families connect with one another while doing missions/ministry together. Any missions volunteers-six years and older- are encouraged to participate.

The cost is \$25 per individual or a maximum of \$50 per family (immediate family - parents and their children). The cost includes: registration fee, t-shirt, event insurance, some supplies, some meals. Additional cost will include: some project supplies, meals, and housing. We are working on affordable housing options.

To receive a registration packet for this event, contact Tammy Anderson in the Mississippi WMU office (800-748-1651, ext. 323, or 601-292-3323 or tanderson@mbcb.org).

FamilyFEST is co-sponsored by the Mid-Delta Baptist Association, Men's Ministry (MBCB) and Mississippi WMU (MBCB).



Mississippi Tornado Recovery

Volunteers who have undergone disaster relief training through state, church or associational programs* are encouraged to call Carol Wright in Men's Ministry at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to learn how they can contribute to MS Baptist relief efforts.

Funds can be donated toward MS Tornado relief efforts specifically, or directed to the MBCB general Disaster Relief fund. Checks should be made payable to the MECB, with a designation note of either "MS Tornadoes" or "Disaster Relief."

To volunteer, call Carol Wright in Men's Ministry at the Convention Board at 601-292-3334.

Checks can be mailed to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • Business Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS • 39205



*MBCB Disaster Relief can only use volunteers who have undergone disaster relief training from one of these sources.

TRANSFORMATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL REGIONAL TRAINING

Time at each location: 9:00 a.m. - noon

July 9, 2011
FBC, Cleveland
Cleveland

August 13, 2011
Country Woods
Byram

July 23, 2011
FBC, Senatobia
Senatobia

August 27, 2011
FBC, Kosciusko
Kosciusko

August 6, 2011
FBC, McComb
McComb

September 17, 2011
FBC, Picayune
Picayune

Age Group Conferences
for Preschool - Adult

"Telling the Story
of Jesus Through
Sunday School"

"The Transformational
Sunday School Class"

General Officer's
Conferences

"Principles to Tell the
Story of Jesus"

"How to Grow a
Transformational
Sunday School"

For more information contact
Kiely Young at kyoung@mbcb.org
or Lee Ann Boykin at labykin@mbcb.org
or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292

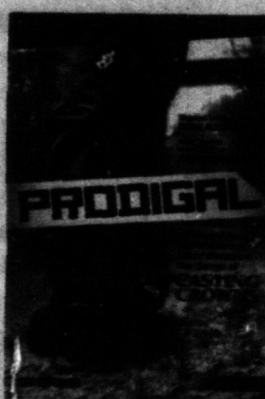
GROWING CHURCHES

Sponsored by MS Baptist Convention & North MS Baptist Association
Growing Churches Conference
Friday & Saturday, July 29 & 30, 2011

Harrisburg Baptist Church
4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd.
Tupelo, MS 38801

HeartSong Music & Worship Arts Camp

For 6th-12th Graders
William Carey University, Hattiesburg
June 21-25, 2011



The students
will learn and
present the
PRODIGAL,
the music
drama
arranged by
Dennis and
Nan Allen.

Camp Choral Director
JOHN LANGWORTHY
Minister of Music
Morrison Heights BC
Clinton

Camp Pastor
LARRY LEBLANC
Pastor, FBC, Summit

Camp Worship Leader
BRADLEY WHITE
FBC, Summit

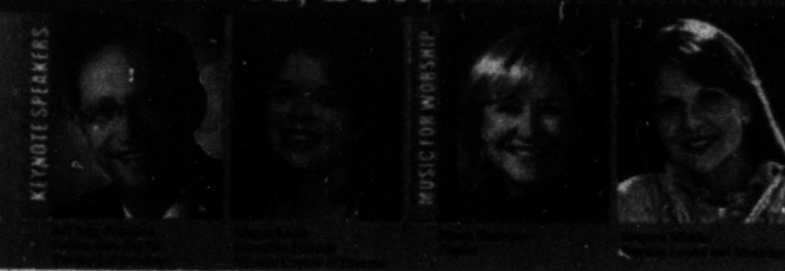
Worship - Mission Opportunities
Family Groups - Talent Show - Karaoke
Classes: Praise Band, Voice, Guitar,
Art, Photography, Keyboard,
Handbells, Sound Tech, Media,
Drama, Miss. Baptist All-State Youth
Choir & Orchestra Prep and more.

COST:

\$167 per participant
on campus
\$30 per commuting student
Preview DVD Available
Upon Request

PROCLAIM!

WMU MISSIONS CELEBRATION
AND ANNUAL MEETING
June 12-13, 2011



Wyndham Phoenix Hotel Grand Ballroom, 50 East Adams Street
Phoenix, Arizona

- Learn practical ways to strengthen and energize your missional journey
- Discover how God is working around the world and how you can be part of it
- Participate in relevant and inspiring breakout sessions (including sessions on how to lead WMU age-level organizations)
- Dialogue with international and North American field personnel
- Connect and network with missional leaders from around the country
- Experience dynamic music for worship
- And much, much more!

Missions Celebration participants are asked to bring school supplies to an ongoing ministry at Seyenna Vistas, a 67-acre mobile home and RV park in Phoenix with more than 100 children in grades 1-6.
(Supply list available online.)

For more information, visit the Web site at www.wmu.com/calendar/WMU
Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting

GROW Your Church Through GIVING



Have a one-day
stewardship revival!

We will provide: Sunday School lessons
Tracts and materials
Lodging and travel
Budget workshop
Encouragement
Giving profile
Honorarium
Consultant

CHURCH RESPONSIBILITIES

- Promote
- Enlist members
- Support

A stewardship revival includes
preaching, Sunday School
lessons, promotional materials,
customized giving profiles,
and an analysis of the budget process.

Jerry W. Mixon, Stewardship Director
Lisa Leavell
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

If interested,
call toll-free
1-800-748-1651
or in Jackson
601-292-3347.

2012 MARGARET LACKEY
STATE MISSIONS OFFERING EMPHASIS

Undiscovered

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great
and unsearchable things you do not know.

Jeremiah 33:3

MISSIONS CAMP for Teenage Girls

Where: Camp Garaywa

When: June 27-July 1 & June 4-8

What: A week of experiencing the great outdoors, exploring other
cultures, interacting with missionaries, recreation, crafts, and
so much more!

Cost: \$155 per camper

Register online at www.garaywa.org
or by calling 601-924-7034

State Literacy Missions Conference

July 14-16, 2011
Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon

Basic Workshops in:

- Adult Reading & Writing
- English as a Second Language
- Bible Storytelling

Seminars on:

- Updates
- Cultures
- Religions

Special Guest: Kendale Moore

For more information see
www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/wmu/literacy
or call 601-292-3317



MISSIONS CAMP FOR GIRLS

Camp Garaywa event for girls who have completed grades 3-6

Space is still available for:	June 6-10	June 20-24	July 11-15
	June 13-17	July 4-8	July 13-22

Cost is \$155 per camper
Register online at www.garaywa.org
or call 601-924-7034

HOUSE TOPS

Miss Lauren Tabor
07-01-91
Parents: Michael & Jeana
American Peoples

Miss Kylie M.
7-9-09
Parents: D & M.B.
Restricted

Miss Natalia Nosker
7-10-07
Parents: Kieth & Susan
Restricted

Miss Josie M.
7-13-10
Parents: C & A
Restricted

Miss Christina Beaman
07-17-01
Parents: Brad & Lenora
Last Frontier

Mr. Garrett Bridges
7-17-96
Parents: Randy & Kim
South America

Mr. Benjamin Worthy
07-18-08
Charlie & Shannon Worthy
European Peoples

Mr. Joshua
7-26-96
Parents: J & P
Restricted

Encourage an
MK with a card!

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded.

Please send all to:
Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK Birthdays,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together;
cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.



For more information about this event, contact Mississippi WMU at 800-748-1651, or go online to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Web site (www.mbc.org) for a schedule and conference list. Search under the event title or calendar date.



Associational & Church Missions Leadership Training

Crossgates BC,
Brandon
Friday and Saturday
August 12-13

Conferences for associational WMU leaders, church missions leaders and women's ministry leaders will be offered on both Friday evening and Saturday morning. General missions/ministry conferences will be offered for all participants.

Christian Action
COMMISSION

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES for Christian Living

WWW.CHRIStIANACTION.COM • VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 5

Is the Gospel Life Changing?



Chambers

by Rob Chambers
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.

Almost three weeks ago churches observed Resurrection Sunday commemorating and celebrating Christ's sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection. Christ's death put an end to the penalty of sin for those who repent and have faith in him, and Christ's resurrection proved that he conquered the grip that sin and death had on humanity.

Fifty days after the resurrection the Holy Spirit was sent during Pentecost to fill believers with power from on high. It is the person of the Holy Spirit, in the lives of believers, who encourages and enables them to be moral or according to God's will.

Romans 8:11 says, "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you." The body we now have will die, but while Christians live on this side of heaven, the Spirit will give them life and life abundantly (John 10:10).

During the ministry of Jesus (and later the mission of Paul), there were Jews

who opposed such life-giving measures of the Spirit.

The Pharisees believed in a resurrection, but they denied the resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, those religious leaders who denied Christ also denied the reality of the transforming power of Christ in believers' lives.

Saul, later called Paul, was one of these Pharisees who denied the resurrection of Christ, but he was later confronted by Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). He came to believe in Christ and the resurrection of Jesus, and his life was forever changed.

The Pharisees later turned on Paul and persecuted him, and it is before them that Paul said, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial" (Acts 23:6).

The Sadducees, however, did not believe in a bodily resurrection at all,

and so they all together rejected the resurrecting power of the Spirit in the life of Jesus Christ.

Just as there were people denying the life-changing power of God through the Spirit of Christ in the days of Jesus, so it is today.

There are people in churches, and even religious leaders, who look at people that are lost and living in sin and conclude that they are in a hopeless situation. They, therefore, distance themselves from these people and deny them the message and transforming power of the Gospel.

Those who are sexually immoral, materialistic, adulterers, homosexuals, drunks, thieves, and embezzlers are too often viewed as hopeless cases, and therefore, the hope that the Gospel offers is kept at a distance from them.

Unfortunately, the "down and out" have become rejected by many in the Church. Sadly, Christians label these people with 'the scarlet letter' of their sin and steer clear of them in public places like the grocery store, ball games, and on the sidewalks alongside the road to Jericho.

Redemption and positive change is possible. It is even a normal occur-

rence for people who put their faith in God. For example, Abraham was an adulterer; Moses was a murderer; David was a murderer and an adulterer; and Paul was at least a conspirator to murder.

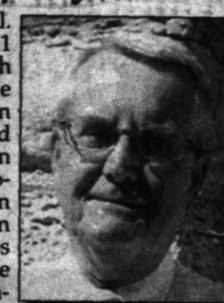
Scripture supports the claim that people, through faith in Christ, can change. Paul indicates this in 1 Cor. 6:9 where he declares that some of the members of the Corinthian church were sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, greedy, drunkards, revilers, or swindlers. Paul said that "you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

The church must remain steadfast in knowing and proclaiming that it is the Lord who said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18, 19).

Chambers can be contacted at 601-292-3331 or at rchambers@christianaction.com.

English professor/author believes much lost with so many translations

WHEATON, Ill. (BP) — May 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the King James version of the Bible. Leland Ryken is a Christian and an English professor at Wheaton University in Illinois, so perhaps it's a given that he would love the richness of the King James Version Bible translation — so much so that he wrote a book to mark the 400th anniversary of its publication. The author of *The Legacy of the King James Bible* (Crossway, 2011) spoke with Baptist Press:



Ryken

James Bible was great because of what preceded it.

BP: I have read that it took several decades for it to catch on in popularity. Is that true?

RYKEN: We live in a day of debunking. The main opinion is that the King James Version was unsuccessful upon its publication. That is not what my research uncovered. It was not an immediate sensation, but it was, in my view, an immediate success. It went through 182 editions in its first 35 years. That's a success story in my view.

RYKEN: Starting with Tyndale, there were six English Bibles that preceded the King James Bible of 1611. I would describe those six translations as a single communal effort. Yes, they were carried on by distinct committees and individuals, but each one of those translations built upon its predecessors.

There was a process of refinement going on, so that the King James Bible reaped the benefit of those earlier translations, and I would have to credit the King James translators with having what one scholar called "a sure instinct for betterment." That is, they did the tweaks that really brought it to its climax, so the King James Bible was great because of what preceded it.

RYKEN: First of all, it said on the first page, "This Bible was intended for reading in the church." What it means is that the translators lived in what we would call an oral culture. It was in the process of becoming a print culture, but wasn't quite there. That means that they just had ears that were tuned to rhythm and cadence and flow so that, to this day, I think the King James Bible is matchless in its cadence and its flow. It just reads well, and modern translations that follow in the lineage of the King James Version can also partake of that quality.

BP: You already partially answered this question: What are some ways you think the King James Bible remains superior to modern translations, and maybe some ways that you think it is inferior?

RYKEN: It is supreme in its fluency, first of all. Secondly, we just have to praise the King James Bible for its language and style. It's not easy to find the adjectives to describe it, but it's elegant and it is dignified... The language is beautiful. Quite often the language is quite simple, but the effect is majestic and moving.

BP: What do you mean by fluency?

RYKEN: It flows smoothly when read aloud. If we take a modern colloquial Bible, the moment someone starts reading it in public, it does not flow well. It's flat. It particularly comes out when a whole congregation starts to read it.

BP: Are there any ways that you think modern translations are superior to the King James?

RYKEN: Yes, the language of the King James is archaic. I say that even as someone who teaches Renaissance literature. It is a really difficult read for me and, secondly, I think we have to acknowledge that scholarship has advanced a lot in the last four centuries. The King James is not the most accurate translation.

BP: What impact did the King James Bible have on succeeding English translations?

RYKEN: It had the playing field to itself until the mid-20th century. Beginning then, there have been three English translations that have consciously tried to retain all that was good in the King James Bible while updating the scholarship,

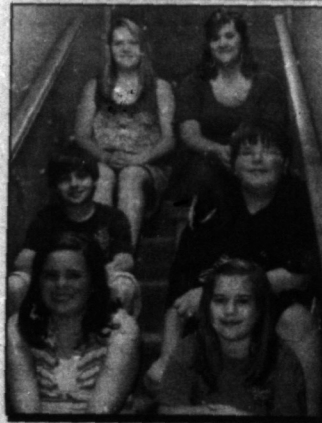
grammar and language. The first of those was the Revised Standard Version, then the New King James Version and then more recently the English Standard Version. All of those retained the essentially literal philosophy of the King James translators, and they consciously appropriated what is excellent in the style of the King James Version.

BP: What has been lost by having multiple translations and not having a common English Bible?

RYKEN: Everything has been lost by our loss of a common English Bible. Christians and the public at large no longer know what it means when we speak of the "the" Bible, whereas for three centuries everyone knew what that meant. I think it has taken away the incentive to determine what an accurate translation is.

If we... have six different translations, the sentiment readily sets in, "Well, who is to say which one is right?" and we finally give up the quest to find out which is the right one. Also, Bible memorization became very difficult, and in many churches became a lost cause.

BIBLE DRILLS



1. High Hill Church, Philadelphia

1. High Hill Church, Philadelphia, recognizes its youth and children's Bible drillers. Shown, front row, are Alexis Billings and Morgan Brewer; center, Stephen Gilmore and Hunter Graham; back row, Whitney Billings and Haleigh Graham.
2. Clear Creek Church, Oxford, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are Katie Belle Cook, Anna Grace Allen, Hollin Webb, and Jared Redding.



2. Clear Creek Church, Oxford

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. First Church, Foxworth: 100th anniversary, May 28-29; Sat., activities 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. with food and drinks; Sun., services 9 a.m. - noon, special guest and music, former pastors and staff members.
2. Antioch Church, Lawrence Association: Homecoming, May 22; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., followed by worship service, lunch, and fellowship; David Posey, speaker; Dogwood Cross, music.
3. Mt. Pisgah Church, Sandhill: 180th anniversary, May 22; worship, 11 a.m.
4. Causeyville Church, Meridian: Homecoming, May 15, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Ron Mercer, speaker; Paul Barkley, music.
5. Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth: Homecoming, May 15; services, 10 a.m.; Heismen in concert.
6. Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point: Revival, May 15 - 18th; 6:30 p.m. nightly; John Turner, Steve Cirlot, Greg Foster, and Philip Price, speakers.
7. Concord Church, McCall Creek: Homecoming, May 22; services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and 1:15 p.m. services.
8. Friendship Church, Brookhaven: Homecoming, May 29; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Carroll Walker, speaker.
9. Blackwater Church, Kemper County Association: Homecoming and revival, May 15 - 18; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and cemetery meeting; Deug Goodman, speaker; Jimmy Sanders, pastor.
10. Bellevue Church, Thaxton: Homecoming, May 15; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; David Blackwell, speaker; Tommy Inmon, pastor.

COLLEGE NEWS

1. William Carey University (WCU) recognized endowed scholarship donors and recipients at the Honors Day Convocation held recently on the Hattiesburg campus. A total of 160 endowed and restricted scholarships benefited over 300 students during 2010 - 2011. Pictured below are 53 of the recipients with Scott Hummel, vice president for institutional advancement and church relations, and Tim Morris, annual fund director and special gifts officer.
2. On May 5, at 6:30 p.m. Steve Knight was honored for his record of most wins for a Mississippi men's basketball coach at the same four-year institution. WCU also inducted 16 former athletes into the inaugural class of the university's Sports Hall of Fame. The event took place at Southern Oaks Home and Gardens.
3. Janet Williams has been named as the new Dean of the Joseph and Nancy Fain School of Nursing at William Carey University. Williams has served in the school of nursing for over 20 years as a teacher and administrator, and most recently as Acting Dean.
4. Nearly 700 students will receive degrees at William Carey University in one of three graduation ceremonies for undergraduate and graduate students for the Hattiesburg and Tradition campuses. The ceremony for students receiving graduate degrees is May 13 at 7 p.m. in Smith Auditorium in the Thomas Fine Arts Center on the Hattiesburg campus. The speaker for the ceremony is Gene Fair, Chancellor, Place 4, for the Tenth Chancery Court District. The first ceremony for students receiving undergraduate degrees on the Hattiesburg campus



3. Williams

pus is Saturday, May 14 at 9:30 a.m. in Smith Auditorium. The speaker for the 9:30 ceremony is Percy W. Watson, the representative for Forrest County District 103. The second ceremony for students receiving undergraduate degrees on the Hattiesburg campus is May 14 at 1 p.m. in Smith Auditorium. This ceremony will honor graduates receiving degrees from the school of business, school of education, school of missions and Biblical studies, and the school of music. The speaker is Dr. Lalchungnunga, principal of Serampore College in Serampore, India. The ceremony for Tradition graduate and undergraduate students is May 14 at 4 p.m. in Smith Auditorium. Congressman Steven Palazzo will serve as the guest speaker for the Tradition graduation. For graduation information call the Office of the Registrar at (601) 318-6195.



1. WCU Honors Day Convocation

STAFF CHANGES

1. First Church, Chicora, has called Jackie Spell as pastor. Spell has previously served at Green's Creek Church, Petal, Buck Creek Church, Richton, and First Church Myrick, Laurel. Shown are Spell and his wife Brenda.
2. Christ Church, Greenwood, has called Van Franklin as pastor. He comes from North Winona Church, Winona.

Visit us online at www.mbc.org to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.



1. The Spells

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Walk With God

Ezra 7:1a, 6-10, 25-28; 9:4-6; 10:10-12

By Bobby McKay

My wife and I have been blessed with two wonderful daughters. The joys that our children provide us are countless. As you may know, being a parent is not an easy undertaking, especially in today's society. For all the challenges a parent may face, the rewards of watching a child grow up and honor God with his or her life makes it all worth it. There are some milestones in the development of each child that parents look forward to with great anticipation. Among these accomplishments are when a child takes their first steps. There is something about the pitter patter of little feet that causes a great joy for mom and dad. With walking comes independence, exploration and adventure. There is something else the child discovers with walking, and that is falling. However, I have never heard or

read of a child that gave up on walking because they fell. The experiences of falling in fact aid in their development and help them to become better and stronger walkers. Through the practice of trial and error a toddler learns stamina and balance in walking and yes, even falling.

Can the same be said of us spiritually? Do not misunderstand me or get the impression that I am condoning sinful behavior. I am not advocating that you or I go out into the world and try to mess up. What I am saying is that people are watching our walk closer than we realize. As a part of our walk we must admit that we sometimes fail in being the representative of Christ that we should be. In these missteps, do you get back up, keep walking, and learn from your mistakes or do you refuse to move? If we are walking with



McKay

God we know that He is there to lift us back up and continue the journey with us. A genuine spiritual leader is not measured by their faults, rather the humble realization that their connection with God is imperative if they desire to lead people.

Reminders about our personal walk with God is the thrust of this week's lesson. If you are feeling frustrated or dry in your leadership, it could be that your own life needs to be refreshed. Meet me in the book of Ezra for some refreshment.

Our Repetition

There are some things that a leader says repeatedly in his or her teachings or messages because they believe them to be essential to effectiveness. There is one saying that I repeat often from the pulpit where I pastor. That quote is, "What you do with the cross, determines your eternal destiny." I firmly believe that. Ezra's repetitive theme was the scriptures. In the first ten

verses of chapter seven, you see his commitment to, "studying the law of the Lord, obeying and teaching its statutes and ordinances." He was committed to communicating God's written word to a needy people. He didn't waste his time arguing about the word, he was too busy teaching it! We have given the devil an avenue in our churches when we feel like we must protect God's word and bicker over something like translations. God's word is living and timeless. It is simply our job to proclaim it over and over again.

Our Reputation

Secular kings and leaders even noticed something different about Ezra. When you are following God and His hand is on you, your life will stand out. Your reputation is critical to your testimony. While that might not seem entirely fair, it is true. The hard part about our reputation is everyone knows it but us. We cannot determine what others think of us, but we can choose how we treat them. Billy Graham gives a great definition of reputation, "A real Christian is a person who can give his parrot to the town gossip." Again I say, if you are committed to walking with God and not this world, God will lay countless number of opportunities in your path to advance His kingdom.

Our Relation

There is one thing about Mississippians we can all agree on: family ties run deep. Something else that is common is the allegiance to our churches. Relation here is not talking about the ones we share DNA with, rather our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is only after we relate and empathize with our community can we lead our community. Get out there and learn your church field. Look with realistic eyes at the people in your community. It is foolish to wish it were a different type of people and sinful not to reach those that are already there. As the commercial used to say, "Let's go walking, Mississippi!"

McKay is pastor of Harpersville Church, Harpersville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Be Focused

Colossians 3:1-17

By Cyndi Grace

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17 (NIV) This should be a major goal as a Christian - our lesson today explains how we can achieve it! Paul begins chapter 3 by stating two very important things: We must set our hearts and we must set our minds! The word "set" does not mean "to place" but is a Greek word, which means, "Direct your mind to." It is an intentional choice for our desires or thoughts and they should be "set in concrete!" That is how we live focused Christian lives. Focus is merely what we concentrate upon...it is what we see clearly. Jesus, in

Hebrews 12:2, modeled this for us, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." NIV. (emphasis mine) Jesus was able to live this life in all its turmoil and pain, because He kept His eyes on the joy that was to come. He didn't focus on the "here" but what was to come. That is a powerful lesson of how we should live and live victoriously. Jesus also told us to abide in Him...but often we abide in other places - perhaps in fear, stress, bitterness, or discontent. What we concentrate on and what we desire in our hearts will determine how and where we live. I am not talking about physical abodes but



Grace

where we live in our minds. What does this happen within our churches. Comments like, "Well if you knew what he/she did to me, you'd be mad, too!" are too common! Jesus told us to forgive - period! This is the hardest part of being a Christian but we are new creatures in Christ and should follow His example!

Our physical lives will follow our focus. Obviously we should "kill" immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed! These were the lifestyles of many Colossians before they came to Christ (and perhaps you as well.) God's grace through the Holy Spirit had given the victory over these but Paul added some sins that were still at work in the believer's lives: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language! Notice these are in a specific order! If we become angry and refuse to let it go, it will turn into rage. The result will be a desire to hurt others, often by speaking lies to discredit them and is often done with some "wash-

your-mouth-out-with-soap" language! I am sad to say that this happens within our churches. Comments like, "Well if you knew what he/she did to me, you'd be mad, too!" are too common! Jesus told us to forgive - period! This is the hardest part of being a Christian but we are new creatures in Christ and should follow His example!

Read verses 12-14 aloud. What would happen if we began to live with compassion instead of criticism? What if kindness, humility, gentleness and patience were a constant in our lives? What if we actually lived with daily forgiveness to those who have harmed us? That would be a life change with kingdom impact and would certainly bind us together in perfect unity. Jesus said in John 17:21b, "May they also be one in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (NIV) That is perfect unity. Think about it! The world will believe that God sent Jesus for salvation when we, His

bride, model this perfect unity. Perfect unity will give us the tools to do all the things listed in verses 15-17. Jesus was one with The Father and clearly knew how to respond with love to others but more importantly, how to serve them with compassion.

Often believers, when encouraged to live more Christ-like, say, "But I am only human. God doesn't really expect me to..." I beg to differ, for we read in 2nd Peter 1:3, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness." (NIV) This is how we do it all (in word or deed) in the name of the Lord Jesus! We clean our glasses and get some godly focus! The world is looking for a way to live, and to have victory! Church, they are looking to us! Where will we "direct" them?

Grace is a conference speaker and Bible teacher and is a member of First Church, Clinton.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Baptist Health Systems



2. Freney Church, Carthage



3. Hathaway ordination



4. Davis and Daniels

1. Baptist leaders recently met at Baptist Health Systems (BHS) in Jackson to discuss ways to work together. Among the items discussed was the BHS recent contribution of half the salary for a nurse practitioner at Mission First, an inner city ministry launched by First Church, Jackson. Among those at the meeting were (from left) Stan Buckley, senior pastor of First Church, Jackson; Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson; Mark Slyter, BHS chief operating officer; and Danny Rutland, BHS vice president and chief development officer.

2. The children's choir of Freney Church, Carthage, presented an Easter program entitled Hallelujah, Alive, Amen. Shown are the participants.

3. Glendale Church, Leland, ordained Mark Hathaway as deacon May 1. Shown are pastor Dick Hill, Hathaway, and Vicky Hathaway.

4. New Zion Church, Monticello, licensed Elijah Daniels to preach Mar. 20. Shown is pastor Jeff Davis and Daniels.

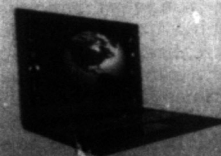
5. Homewood Church, Forest, recently held a baby dedication. Shown are Lizzy Graham with parents Clint and Candy Graham, Sarah Beth Hallman with parents Robert and Jamie Hallman, pastor Doyle Boyles, Cole Parkman with parents Jason and Lori Parkman, Katherine McKinley with parents Brad and Johna McKinley, and Bryson Harrison with parents Charlie and Andrea Harrison.

6. LifeWay is sponsoring Influential Joy, a ministers' wives luncheon, during the Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, June 14, noon, at the Phoenix Convention Center North Ballroom. Lisa Harper, speaker; Kim Hill, music. Tickets, \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Visit LifeWay Women's Events at www.lifeway.com or (800) 254-2022. For more information, call (770) 794-2982 or sandy.beetler@jfb.org.

7. New Life Fellowship, Oakland, is hosting the Weston Hinson Group May 28, 7 p.m. A love offering will be received. For more information, visit www.westonhinsongroup.com.



5. Homewood Church, Forest



Visit us online at
www.mbc.org
to learn more about
Mississippi Baptist opportunities.

More Than Just A Play



New Great Passion Play

Christ of the Ozarks

More than 250 actors and live animals recreate the Passion of Christ in one of the most epic performances you'll experience. The New Great Passion Play is also home to exciting on-site attractions, including the unique Living Bible Tour and the family-friendly Christian Comedy Dinner Theater, right in Eureka Springs, just 48 miles south of Branson.

**THE
GREAT
PASSION
PLAY**
MORE THAN JUST A PLAY

800-882-7529
greatpassionplay.com